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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/601,126	09/22/2000	Tatsushi Nashida	450101-02198	5640
20999	7590	07/08/2004		
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG 745 FIFTH AVENUE- 10TH FL. NEW YORK, NY 10151			EXAMINER TRAN, HAI V	
			ART UNIT 2611	PAPER NUMBER 13
DATE MAILED: 07/08/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/601,126

Applicant(s)

NASHIDA ET AL.

Examiner

Hai Tran

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 04/23/2004 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 04/23/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Newly added limitations to independent claims 1 and 4 were not supported in Applicant specification. Therefore, Applicant's argument was moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to

one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

In this instant, newly amended limitations "wherein the 1st index information includes representative information indicating scene changes in the information data provides through the first information source", lines 5-7 of claim 1 and lines 5-6 of claim 4, and "wherein the 2nd index information includes representative information indicating scene changes in the information data provides through the 2nd information source", lines 9-11 of claim 1 and lines 8-10 of claim 4 were not disclosed in Applicant specification.

Newly added Claim 9 with limitation "a plurality of still images indicating scene change..." was not disclosed in Applicant specification.

Newly added Claim 13 with limitation "a plurality of still images indicating scene changes..." was not disclosed in Applicant specification.

The following art rejection is applied to applicant claims as best understood in view of the 112 1st paragraph rejection above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-8, 9 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Florin et al. (US 5583560).

Regarding claim 1, Florin discloses an information providing apparatus (Fig. 1-2, element 54) for displaying information on a screen (Fig. 6-50), based on information data provided through a plurality of information sources (Fig. 1, elements 50, 56, 57), characterized by comprising:

Means 67 for obtaining (1st) index information (television program listing; Col. 2, lines 53-59; Col. 10, lines 61-65+) from a 1st information source 50 of the plurality of information sources;

means 69 for obtaining (2nd) index information (i.e., listing of all programs recorded on the VCR; Col. 16, lines 40-50) from a 2nd information source (i.e., VCR 56) of the plurality of information sources;

means (TV 58) for displaying a categorized menu on the screen (Fig. 22-35 menu of icons/still images; Col. 3, lines 13-21 and Col. 20, lines 51-65), based on the obtained (1st and 2nd) index information from the 1st and 2nd information (Col. 20, lines 28-31); and

means (Fig. 3, element 63) for obtaining necessary information from the 1st or 2nd information source, in response to selection operation on the menu screen, and for displaying information based on the necessary information (Fig. 33, elements 380, 375 Col. 20, lines 34-50).

Wherein the menu screen is arranged to display the information in a plurality of dimensions (two-dimensional icons) and levels (plurality of sub-menu; i.e., user select icon 315 of Fig. 28; in which the screen display the second level of sub-menu 360) such that a substantial portion of the necessary information (el. 360 or 300) can be seen and navigated on a minimum number of screens to enable relatively easy programming decisions and selections.

Regarding claim 2, Florin further discloses wherein the necessary information is index information (i.e., EPG program information; Col. 10, lines 61-66 with channel number provided from the service provider 50) for displaying the categorized menu (Col. 15, lines 17-40).

Regarding claim 3, Florin further discloses that the index information from the 1st information source 52 (Fig. 2; television program listing) is obtained through the network 52 of Fig. 1 (Col. 2, lines 53-59 and Col. 10, lines 45-65+).

Regarding claim 4, Florin discloses an information providing method for displaying information on a screen (Fig. 6-50; Summary of the Invention), based on information data provided through a plurality of information sources (Fig. 1, elements 50, 56, 57), is analyzed with respect to apparatus claim 1.

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Regarding claim 5, Florin further discloses wherein the necessary information is index information (i.e., EPG program information; Col. 10, lines 61-66 with channel number provided from the service provider 50) for displaying the categorized menu (Col. 15, lines 17-40).

Regarding claim 6, Florin further discloses that the index information from the 1st information source 52 (Fig. 2; television program listing) is obtained through the network 52 of Fig. 1 (Col. 2, lines 53-59 and Col. 10, lines 45-65+).

Regarding apparatus claim 7 and method claim 8, Florin further discloses wherein the minimum number of screens is one (Fig. 22-35).

Regarding claims 9 and 13, Florin further discloses a plurality of different still images of scene in the information data provided through the 1st information source (Fig. 33-35; Col. 20, lines 22-50).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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2. Claims 10-12, 14, and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Florin et al. (US 5583560) in view of Hatori et al. (US 5977974).

Regarding claims 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17, Florin does not disclose displaying the plurality of still images in a temporal sequence so that relationships among the plurality of still images can be view in time series, and wherein the plurality of still images includes arranging the plurality of still images in a spiral layout, in increasingly smaller size toward the center of the spiral layout; controlling and moving the plurality of still images in the spiral layout, such that as more temporally current still images come into view on the outermost arm of the spiral layout, temporally older still images move spirally inward toward the center of the spiral layout.

Hatori discloses displaying the plurality of still images in a temporal sequence so that relationships among the plurality of still images can be view in time series (Col. 19, lines 40-65+), and wherein the plurality of still images includes arranging the plurality of still images in a spiral layout, in increasingly smaller size toward the center of the spiral layout; controlling and moving the plurality of still images in the spiral layout, such that as more temporally current still images come into view on the outermost arm of the spiral layout, temporally older still images move spirally inward toward the center of the spiral layout (Col.20, lines 1-50). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to

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modify Florin with Hatori so user can easily have a sense of time intervals or depth so that the user can intuitively have a sense of temporal order (Col. 2, lines 38-53).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai Tran whose telephone number is 703-308-7372.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Faile can be reached on 703-305-4380. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


HAI TRAN
PATENT EXAMINER

HT: ht
06/25/2004